15: Margetts D-5 (1958) 1963 FL12 Manni FL12

VOL. LXIII, Articles 240-268 DECEMBER, 1963

MAN

A Monthly Record of Anthropological Science

A Stellate Collection of Flint from Hakassia in Southern Arabia
(With four text figures)
Jean Courtin, Pierre and Simone Hardan

Shorter Notes

A Note on the Connection between Spirit Mediumship and Healing in Bonyere, with Special Reference to Possession
by Animal Ghosts
Dr. J. H. M. Beattie

The 4-5 Ridge Comet in Palaeo-Oceanographies of the Indians of the Punjab (with a text figure and two tables)
Parmeshwar Lal

On the Hand Is Gloves (with three text figures)
Dr. E. L. Margetts

A Possible Case of Amputation, Dated to c. 2000 B.C. (with three text figures)
Drs. Brothwell and Dr. V. Møller-Christensen

A Note on Baked Stones and "Rain Stones" in the Lake Rukwa District of Tanganyika
Jean E. Hanley

Correspondence

Reviews
Africa: 1 Europe

Published by
THE ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
in Bedford Square, London, W.C.1

Back Issues 5s. [Title Page] Annual Subscription 40s.

[p 190]

[119]

243

124

[126]

56

[119]

[191]

[text continues on p. 192]

FIG. 1. THE GATHERING OF THE GITAUA

(a) Almost girl mourners gathering in a circle; (b) Seated and ready to start the hand and finger-ring ritual.

[1-191-a]

15: Margetts D-5 (1958) 1963 FL12 Masai FL12

Pic. 5. THE HEAD
(a) Short cuttail on the forehead; (b) Wheals raise a line of the hair.

[illegible] [illegible]

15: Margette D-5 (1958) 1963 FL12 Masai FL12

FIG. 3. THE RING STRIP
(a) Slide strip is placed on middle finger of right hand; (b) Maasai adjusts his ring.

(p. 192)

561 of bells, reeds, and the glass was somewhere between Ulan
989 Kadong and Lumut, i.e. west of the Kadong River in the S.E. valley below the Kibuyu escarpment in Kenya. The gathering ate for the women was done in the bush about two hours march from the campsite outside of which the Orangutan had been located. Everyone in the party, in addition to myself, were Charles Myers, Jack Cruickbury and Jeremy D. Lewis. Above you wrote, heads shaved and rubbed with ochre, carrying sticks instead of spears, we entered in a large circle. The forehead of each warrior was rubbed with the heart of the slaughtered animal and then the warrior took a bite of it. Following this, a strip of hide, about five or five inches long and one-half or one inch wide, pierced at one end by a one-inch dia. was placed over the middle finger of the right hand of each volunteer.

The magical significance of the heart and finger strip is not necessarily known. Nothing magical is ever very clear. The heart probably signifies life and blood, and the binding of the warrior to each, the life-force of the Mbuti. The significance of the hide strip is even more obscure, perhaps merely a symbol of brotherhood and of the association with each that possibility of sexual connection (finger symbolizing male genitals, slit in skin female). If the latter, the individual Mbuti would certainly see no sense of this meaning, which would have originated long ago in an individual magician's mind and have been observed for all others over the years. Finger strips and rings, and wristlets, are commonly (though not always) used as symbols of sexual union in East African tribes, e.g. the Wakamba use a finger ring from the favorite bull of a group to an enemy against such sexual happiness (Mungeria, personal observation) and prior to married are ceremonies the Masai grooms wears a greenish ring on his right middle finger and the bride a ring around her left wrist (Thomson, 1885, p. 48).

(911) When this was long round the volunteers removed her or right or the mongoose, whose further ceremony was carried out at the Orangutan kill.

References

113 Fredericks, Owen, Officer, "An Administrative Survey of the Ulan Social Systems," Tanganyika Voice and Records, Vol. XXVII (1948), pp. 1–25.

——, "The Mbuti Age-Group System as a Guide to Tribal Chronology," African Studies, Vol. VII (1948), pp. 189–208.

Fox, F. Owen, "Further Notes on the Mbuti of Kenya Colony," J. R. Anthrop. Inst., Vol. LII (1922), pp. 407–15. Plates xxi–xv.

Hamilton, Lord Claud, "The Eastern Ceremony of the Mbuti," Mbuti, 1871, 111.

Hadley, A. Claud, The Mbuti: Their Language and Folklore, Oxford (Clarendon P.), 1901.

Hemmingford, A. W. B., The Southern Nile Basins, Ethnographic Survey of Africa, London (Harrison, XIV, Part I), 1911.

Lindsay, J. C. B., "Notes on the Mbuti of Kenya Colony," J. R. Anthrop. Inst., Vol. LII (1922), pp. 183–203.

Meriden, Theophilus Morris, The Mbuti: Ethnographically, Ethnographic Atlas Anglo-American Commission, Boston (Hudson), 1870.